Finland’s Education System: Less Homework/Classroom Time and More Play

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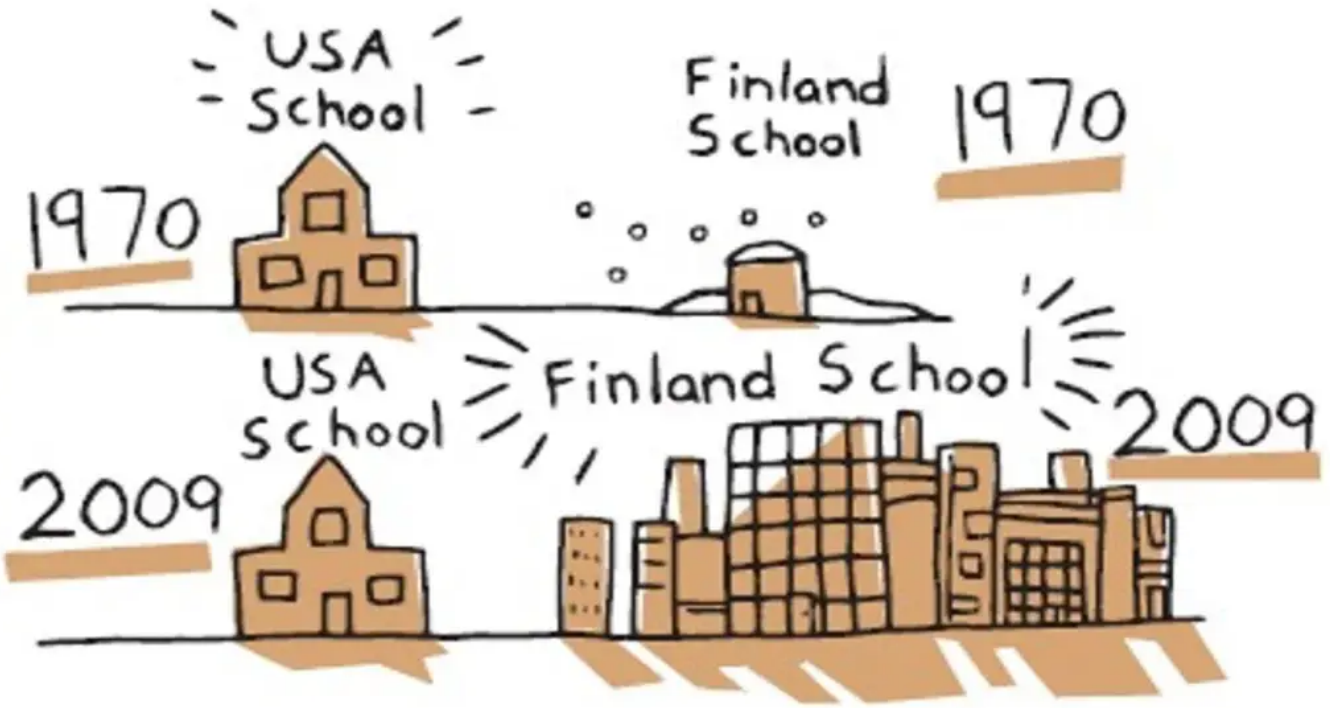

There are many things wrong with the American education system. For one, we have way too much diversity. But even then, we have an obsession with standardized tests and massive amounts of homework. And I get, the myth of the protestant work ethic building great things leads us to imagine more time behind a desk is key to intelligence. While it is true that academic ability is largely heritable and it is virtually impossible to increase someone’s IQ, it is possible that environment be unsuitable for a student to reach the maximum potential.

For example, it is a commonly accepted feature of economics that when you have mandatory universal K-12 education and free higher education, the financial situation of your country will improve overnight. The reason for this is that while you can’t make people smarter than they ware no matter who much book learning you shove into their minds; you can fail to maximize their potential through neglect. This is why public education at all levels should be completely free, and the current student debt we have burdened budding young adults with should be forgiven completely.

In point of fact, Finland’s education system has pretty much abolished homework. This is of course crazy to the American mind. Another thing they do is no standardized tests. Education should not be a business. The profit motive needs to be gotten rid of in education. They also have shorter school days, something like four

hours, which includes one-hour of lunch.

Interestingly, Finland has made it illegal for any school to charge tuition. This has virtually eliminated private schools and ensured that the public schools are well funded. Why? Because the rich kids have to go to school with everyone else, and so the rich parents have to make sure the public-school system is functioning at optimum levels. It also makes for a true egalitarianism: one in which the rich and poor kids are all friends, so they're think twice when they're rich about screwing over their friends. In essence, the barrier of inequality the left correctly critiques in America vanishes in this way.

Finland use to be number one in the world, yet I believe it is now like three or four. However, America ranks at around forty. Why? Because Americans worship at the altar of greed. We have an obsession with the profit motive, and because of our irrational fear of Marxism, have not the language to engage in class-based politics. The literacy rate in Finland is about 99%. So basically, if you can't read, it's your own fault. I think close to half of Americans are illiterate (probably Somalis mostly).

My hope is that in the future, education can be returned to local communities, as it should be. I've talked with people who went to public school circa 1990. Many of them say that they felt like the school belonged to them, to the community. They didn't feel, unlike today, that the school belonged to some outside force. They also felt this way about government, neighborhoods, churches, and business. Now, everything has been centralized, bureaucratized and gutted of any social cohesion. We need to return to local politics, rather than celebrity federal politics.

Links

Wapo: https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2019/08/30/what-finland-is-really-doing-improve-its-acclaimed-schools/
Archive: https://archive.vn/QDwiE

Some facts: https://finland.fi/life-society/the-truth-about-finnish-schools/
Archive: https://archive.vn/L99bw

Wiki: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education_in_Finland
Archive: https://archive.vn/GUpGV